

**SOUTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATION  
NEWS RELEASE**

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**Grants Available To Elevate Youth Ag Education in South Dakota**

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Agricultural Foundation (SDAF) announces that grant funding is now available through two of its grant programs:

- *Building Rural Communities* (BRC) grant program
- *Ag Innovators* (AI) *Youth Education* grant program

As school is back in session across the state and families get back into their routines again, the SD Ag Foundation encourages South Dakotans to start thinking about projects in their schools and communities that can empower future ag leaders and professionals.

These grants were developed to demonstrate the importance of rural communities and the value of organizations that work together to improve rural life.

“We are extremely pleased to begin awarding grants that will benefit South Dakota agriculture. The purpose of the SD Ag Foundation’s grant efforts is to be a catalyst for innovation and change in our rural communities and in the ag industry in general. While we have just begun the hard work of raising funds to support these efforts, the early rollout of these two grants demonstrates both the direction and potential of the Foundation’s mission,” said Greg Von Wald, SD Ag Foundation board member, and Executive Director of the South Dakota Skilled Workforce Advisory Council.

The **Building Rural Communities (BRC)** and **Ag Innovators (AI)** grants are designed to support ongoing agriculture-related community and safety projects along with innovative ideas in youth agricultural education. There are a number of new as well as existing creative solutions offering agriculture-related programs to younger generations. These new programs will support and expand these solutions to be more inclusive, collaborative, and resourceful.

Any 4-H club, FFA or FCCLA chapter in South Dakota can apply for the **Building Rural Communities grant**. Two types of BRC grants are available. The basic grant is used for community improvement projects and is limited to \$750 per project. The safety grant is used for projects that enhance public safety and is limited to \$200 per project. Applications must be submitted or postmarked no later than **Nov. 15, 2017**. Grant awardees will be announced by the end of December.

The **Ag Innovators** grant is meant to encourage the development of creative solutions within agriculture-related innovation and leadership programs for youth. These solutions should

address an educational need or opportunity in a more innovative, effective, equitable, or sustainable way than existing approaches. Applicants should be a public, nonprofit organization as defined by IRS Publication 78, or an organization or individual working with a verified fiscal sponsor. This is a \$500-\$10,000 grant opportunity, with priority given to proposals with project budget sizes that are of appropriate scale to the applicant's capacity to execute the project.

Grant application forms and more information on the programs, including reporting requirements, are available at [www.sdagfoundation.org](http://www.sdagfoundation.org).

**About the South Dakota Agricultural Foundation**

Founded on National Ag Day in March, 2016, The South Dakota Agricultural Foundation is a private, independent nonprofit organization. Its mission is to invest in the future of South Dakota agriculture through a focus on education, innovation, diversification, action and opportunity. Through programming and communication, the organization works to be a relevant, positive and proactive force for change in the industry.

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Contact Information for Interviews with Board Members, Photos, Questions

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